

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 13 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 15 and 17-20 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Brannon et al. (US 6,530,258) (hereinafter "Brannon").

Claims 1 and 2

Amended claim 1 recites: "...migrating a product to the surface of a disk from a base layer of the disk through a pinhole in the disk to form at least one protrusion protruding higher than a minimum flying height of a head assembly, wherein a slider of the head assembly is subject to measurement of a flying height with respect to the disk..."

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the indicated allowable subject matter of the previous Office Action were process limitations being added to apparatus claims, and therefore not given patentable weight.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments and suggestions, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method of claim 1 includes **migrating** a product to the surface of a disk from a base layer which is a technical feature not shown in Brannon.

Claim 2 depends on claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 7 and 8

Amended claim 7 recites: "...a disk having a plurality of pinholes; at least one protrusion formed by migrating a product to the surface of the disk from a base layer of the disk through the pinholes, the protrusion protruding higher than a minimum flying height of the head assembly and floating a slider of the head assembly by rotation of the disk so that an upper portion of the protrusion protruding higher than a flying height of the slider is cut by the slider..."

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the indicated allowable subject matter of the previous Office Action were process limitations being added to apparatus claims, and therefore not given patentable weight.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments and suggestions, claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the system of claim 7 includes a disk having a plurality of pinholes, which is a technical feature not anticipated by Brannon. The pinholes in the disk of claim 7 are a key technical feature of claim 7 since they allow a protrusion to be formed by migrating a product to the surface of the disk from a base layer of the disk through the pinholes.

Claim 8 depends on claim 7 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 13, 15 and 17-19

Amended claim 13 recites: "...migrating a product to a surface of a disk from a base layer of the disk through a pinhole in the disk to form a protrusion having a height greater than a flying height of a slider of a head assembly on the surface of the disk..."

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the indicated allowable subject matter of the previous Office Action were process limitations being added to apparatus claims, and therefore not given patentable weight.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments and suggestions, claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the method of claim 1 includes **migrating** a product to the surface of a disk from a base layer which is a technical feature not shown in Brannon.

Claims 15 and 17-19 depend on claim 13, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 20

Amended claim 20 recites: "...a disk having a plurality of pinholes and a plurality of protrusions formed by migrating a product to the surface of the disk from a base layer of the disk through the pinholes to form a corrosion product, the protrusion having a height greater than an estimated flying height of a slider formed on a surface of the disk..."

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the indicated allowable subject matter of the previous Office Action were process limitations being added to apparatus claims, and therefore not given patentable weight.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments and suggestions, claim 20 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus of claim 20 includes a disk having a plurality of pinholes,

which is a technical feature not anticipated by Brannon. The pinholes in the disk of claim 20 are a key technical feature of claim 20 since they allow a protrusion to be formed by migrating a product to the surface of the disk from a base layer of the disk through the pinholes.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Dec 16, 2008

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501